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SPIRIT ANIMALS: CELEBRITIES GET WILD {page 08}

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BOSTON
Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Got rats? Somerville does, and it could be your fault

City officials say they've seen an explosion in residential rat complaints this year City officials say they've seen an explosion in residential rat complaints this year Unsecured trash, unkempt yards contributing to the problem Workers educating residents in problem neighborhoods {page 02}

GETTY IMAGES

Best. Ever

▶ U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps kisses his medal afer becoming the all-time Olympic leader in medals as he won his 19th yesterday. Phelps took home the gold in the 4x200 freestyle relay. {page 13}

Sports

Raisman grabs first gold medal

US gymnastics team triumphs Needham native seeks individual gold {page 15}

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GETTY IMAGES

▶ A man is treated for a shark bite on his legs.

Man's bite likely from shark

TRURO. A state official said yesterday that a Colorado man swimming at a Cape Cod beach was likely bitten by a great white shark.

Greg Skomal, of the Division of Marine Fisheries, said he based the findings on eye witness accounts, the presence of great white sharks recently and the presence of their prey — seals, the Globe reported. The man was swimming off of Ballston Beach Monday when he was bitten on the leg and ankle.

He was being treated at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Ballston Beach remained open yesterday, but with warnings posted. Shark sightings have become the norm in recent years on the Cape as they have been attracted to seals that also visit there during the summer months.

The last fatal shark attack on Cape Cod occurred in 1936.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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In the news

4

A new report ranks Boston as the fourth most desirable place in the U.S. to live as you age. According to the Milken Institute, a nonprofit which conducted the study, Boston is an oasis of physical therapists, nurses, orthopedic surgeons and fitness centers, along with convenient public transportation and job opportunities for people 65 and older. For people 80 and over, the city ranked No. 1. The institute looked at 359 U.S. metropolitan areas, and examined 78 factors that most affect seniors' quality of life, including housing costs, crime rates, the job market, social opportunities and weather. METRO

Today's local tweet

"Only in Boston would a guy ride public transportation with an axe spray painted to look like a bottle of axe deodorant. #MBTA #redline."

@ELEPHANTGARLIC, ON THE SIGHTS OF THE T

▶ No firefighters were injured.

Cops, DA look into body found in fire

BRIGHTON. Investigators were looking into the death of a woman who was found inside a burning Brighton apartment yesterday.

Firefighters responded to 2-4 Fidelis Way just before 9 a.m. for a reported fire.

Crews were able to quickly put out the one-alarm fire in the fourth-floor apartment, but during their work discovered a woman's body inside.

When fire crews first entered the apartment, they encountered a combative man who was armed with a knife. The man was taken to a hospital for smoke inhalation. METRO

PETA plants message in Fenway

BOSTON. If you've been avoiding the lobster roll at Fenway Park and you don't know why, you can blame PETA. The animal rights group said yesterday that it sneaked a subliminal message inside America's beloved ballpark.

The group bought a commemorative brick as part of the park's 100th anniversary celebration and had it engraved with "Lead Our Bo Sox To Early Runs! Late Inning Blasts! Easy Routs! A Trophy In Our Name!" When combined, the first letter of each word spells lobster liberation. METRO

Rats! Somerville looks to curb rodent problem

Weather, food sources blamed for an increase in sightings ◐ City takes effort to the streets ◐ Residents say they regularly see scurrying rodents

▶ City officials say unsecured trash receptacles are one of the main causes of rat infestation.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

The population of Somerville seems to be growing, and we're not talking about people.

City officials said they've received an increased number of reported rat sightings this year, and residents said they have noticed more of the vulgar vermin scurrying around and through their yards.

"They come out from the sewers and they're so big it's incredible," said James Balan, a lifelong Somerville resident. "I have a 3-year-old son, and I tell him if he sees a rat to run the other way. I shouldn't have to do that."

Rat inspection requests in the city are up 52 percent for the first six months of this year compared with the same time period last year, according to data provided by the city.

City officials have created maps using the data to report rat sightings to pinpoint problem neighborhoods.

While officials attributed the rat rate rise in part to the dense city's available food sources and to the mild winter — which spared the rats a chilling death — residents had their own theories.

Buddy Keenan, who lives on Gilman Street in one of the neighborhoods with multiple reported rat sightings, said he believes the rats have come to his area from nearby construction sites and run along the railroad tracks that are behind his home.

Rats have previously been a problem in Somerville, like they have in other heavily populated cities.

Years ago the city formed a Rodent Task Force to address issues then.

Ellen Collins, the operations manager for Somerville's Inspectional Services Department, said the city is currently reviewing its procedures for dealing with rat issues and incorporating more of the task force's recommendations.

In the meantime, Collins said workers are stepping up their efforts like baiting sewer basins and passing out informational door hangers in problem neighborhoods.

She said the biggest issue inspectors and workers are looking for is uncovered trash.

"They are very smart creatures, and they're just going to find food," said Collins. "You want to eliminate food and shelter."

Balan, who also lives on Gilman Street, said he would like to see the city give out trash bins for homes. He said he sees too many of his neighbors dumping trash in bags out windows or in uncovered barrels.

"It has to be solved because it's ridiculous," he said.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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Officials map rat regions

Officials have mapped problem neighborhoods where the most rat sightings have occurred during the first six months of the year.

Areas in East Somerville have seen a high number of rat calls per square foot, according to city data.

The area south of Union Square that borders Cambridge is also another problem area.

Preventing rats

The city suggests tips for residents to help control the rat problem:

- Eliminate food sources by using tight-fitting lids on all trash containers.
- Keep food, like fallen bird food or fruits from trees, off of the ground.
- Maintain property to eliminate rodent shelter.
- Remove trash/debris, and keep vegetation trimmed.
- When calling 311 to report a rat sighting, make sure to know where the rat is coming from or if it's feeding on a nearby food source.

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Parole reform bill to become law

MASSACHUSETTS. Despite reservations about it, Gov. Deval Patrick plans to sign a sentencing reform bill that will allow as many as 600 nonviolent drug offenders to become immediately eligible for parole and eliminate parole eligibility for certain three-time violent offenders.

Proponents say the measure targets the "worst of the worst" and will improve public safety.

The Legislature on Monday rejected a Patrick amendment to the bill that would have given judges sentencing discretion in cases

involving three-time violent felons who will become ineligible for parole under the new law. Patrick's judicial discretion amendment failed in the House and the Senate rejected it by voice vote. **SHNS**

MBTA ridership tops 400 million

For the first time in MBTA history, ridership topped 400 million for a single fiscal year, according to T officials.

Average weekday ridership during fiscal year 2012, which closed on July 1, grew by 5.7 percent over the previous year, T officials said, and averaged 1.3 million passenger trips each weekday.

It was also the first time that daily ridership averaged more than 1.3 million for an entire fiscal year, MBTA spokesman Joe Pesaturo said.

"The unprecedented ridership figures are the result of multiple factors, including the state's continued economic growth, lower unemployment rates, the availability of real-time information for bus and train customers and an overall improvement in MBTA service reliability," MBTA acting General Manager Jonathan Davis said.

Strapholders did not discriminate, with increases across all MBTA modes of transportation

Bus ridership saw a 5.9 percent growth, the subway saw a 5.2 percent growth, and trolleys saw the highest growth, bringing in 8 percent more riders.

System-wide average weekday ridership for June 2012 increased by 1.5 percent over June 2011, marking the 17th consecutive month of ridership growth, the longest such streak in MBTA history. **METRO/MR**

1.3M

It was also the first time that daily ridership averaged more than 1.3 million for an entire fiscal year, MBTA spokesman Joe Pesaturo said.

T riders can breathe easy

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

▶ The equipment shows how contaminents might move through the subway in a chemical or biological attack.

How it works

- Dozens of sample collection boxes are located throughout the transit system and on street corners, tied to street signs and lamp posts.
- About 30 scientists are on-scene testing 20 stations and street-level sites in Boston Common and Cambridge.
- Gases and particles are released each morning. It takes about 20 minutes for scientists to release the nontoxic, "misty" substance.
- Samples are collected four hours after particles are released. **METRO/MR**

Federal officials this week are working with the MBTA to protect the city from a chemical or biological terror attack.

Transit officials said riders should not be alarmed at the sight of scientists in fluorescent orange vests poking around the transit system this week as they release and trace the movement of nontoxic, odorless gases and particles.

The Department of Homeland Security experiment is meant to simulate how contaminants might move through the subway in a chemical or biological terrorist attack. The air is collected and measured by clearly marked boxes throughout the transit system.

In 2009 and 2010, similar studies examined the subway's airflow, but this time the tests will look at how gas and air particles could waft out of underground tunnels and stations, and into city streets.

"We want to build on the experiments we've done in the past; we want to understand how an event might impact the surrounding city center," said Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate program manager Teresa Lustig yesterday.

Transit police said the study will help shape long-term tactics on how to handle a chemical catastrophe.

"This will ultimately help us enhance our emergency response plans. Most importantly, it will help us fine tune our evacuation plans," said MBTA Deputy Chief Lewis Best, who oversees the T's homeland security and emergency preparedness.

Near the site of their release, the clouds of gas and particles may appear as a fine mist, officials said, but may also be invisible.

Regardless, the gas poses no threat to riders.

The testing, which will continue through the end of the week, is being done at off-peak hours and should not disrupt commuters.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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More strides in mobile ticketing app

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Mobile ticketing is getting closer.

Officials at the MBTA are making more progress on a new mobile app that would make buying commuter rail tickets a breeze.

As of yesterday, the agency received 100 responses from commuter rail riders riders after sending out surveys Monday.

It was aimed at Greenbush and Old Colony Line commuters, and asked how many days they ride the rail, what times they usually commute, what station is closest to their homes, and where they typically buy their tickets, among other questions.

The mini-pilot will formally launch in early September 2012 with customer information sessions rolling out over the following weeks.

MBTA Director of Innovation Josh Robin said yesterday that due to feedback, the app will be available to ferry riders as well.

"It's coming to commuter boats this fall. It's exciting news for boat customers," Robin said.

The app will allow customers to buy passes using an iPhone, Android or Blackberry.

The MBTA and transit mobile ticketing pioneer, Masabi US Ltd., announced in April that they were partnering on the project. **METRO/MR**

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News in brief

Facebook-friendly Hotmail launched

SEATTLE. Microsoft Corp unveiled a revamped, Facebook-friendly version of its free, online e-mail service yesterday in an attempt to reverse market share losses to Google Inc.'s fast-growing Gmail.

The world's largest software company is renaming its Hotmail service Outlook, giving it a sharp new look, social network links and new features for handling the tide of junk and mass mail that swamps many users.

Hotmail was still the world's largest online mail service as of June, according to the latest comScore figures available, with 324 million users, or about 36 percent of the global market.

But it is losing customers to Google's Gmail, the fastest-growing rival, which now has about 31 percent of the market. Yahoo Mail is static with about 32 percent. **REUTERS**

Most Americans favor Medicaid expansion — poll

WASHINGTON. Most Americans back the idea of extending health coverage to their low-income neighbors through the government's Medicaid program, unless it means higher costs for their own state, according to a poll.

In a survey released yesterday by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation, 67 percent of respondents gave a favorable view of President Barack Obama's healthcare reform provision to "expand the existing Medicaid program to cover more low-income, uninsured adults." **REUTERS**

Romney aide apologizes for sassing foreign media

JANEK SKARZYNSKI/AFP/GETTYIMAGES

▶ Mitt Romney walks with his wife Ann in front of the World War II Warsaw Ghetto monument yesterday, in Warsaw.

Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney wrapped up a gaffe-filled European tour by dismissing claims he had undermined his campaign, as one of his aides swore at the media. In an interview with Fox News, Romney said reporters were allowing themselves to be diverted from woes in the U.S. economy and the substance of his own trip, in which he sided strongly with Israel and raised questions about Russian backsliding on democracy.

"There will be some ... who are far more interested in finding something to write about that is unrelated to the economy, to geopolitics, to the threat of war, to the reality of conflict in Afghanistan today, to a nuclearization of Iran," he said.

Romney studiously avoided making any off-the-cuff comments to the media, and — after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw — ignored shouted questions from reporters keen to get his take on his trip.

Ignoring the questions, Romney strode back to his motorcade vehicle as an aide admonished members of the press. "Kiss my ass," Rick Gorka told reporters. He later apologized.

In TV footage a voice could be heard telling reporters it was not appropriate to shout questions so close to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, "a holy site for the Polish people." **REUTERS**

Holyfield sells memorabilia from Tyson ear bite fight

Evander Holyfield is selling the boxing gloves from the heavyweight bout in which Mike Tyson bit off part of his ear, auctioning medals, championship belts and other memorabilia after losing his home to foreclosure.

Holyfield's bronze medal from the 1984 Olympics also will be included, according to an e-mailed statement from Julien's Auctions, which is handling the transactions.

Holyfield moved out of his home in Fairburn, Ga., this month after it was sold for $7.5 million in a foreclosure auction, according to the New York Daily News. He owed more than $14 million on the house and owes in excess of $372,000 in child support, according to Yahoo. He's earned around $250 million during his career. **BLOOMBERG**

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Second India blackout in as many days cuts power to 670 million

ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Indian porters push a parcels cart over railway tracks near a web of high-voltage line feeders at a train station in New Delhi yesterday. A massive power failure hit India for the second day running as three regional power grids collapsed, blacking out more than half the country.

ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Indian women and children wait inside a darkened train carriage at a railway station in New Delhi yesterday.

Grids supplying electricity to half of India's 1.2 billion people collapsed yesterday, trapping coal miners, stranding train travelers and plunging hospitals into darkness in the second major blackout in as many days.

Stretching from Assam, near China, to the Himalayas and the northwestern deserts of Rajasthan, the outage was the worst to hit India in more than a decade and embarrassed the government, which has failed to build up enough power capacity to meet soaring demand.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has vowed to fast-track stalled power and infrastructure projects as well as introduce free market reforms aimed at reviving India's flagging economy. But he has drawn fire for dragging his feet.

By the afternoon rush hour, only about 40 percent of power was back up. Electricity had not been restored to all of the sweltering capital, New Delhi, and streets were clogged with commuters trying to get home.

"It's certainly shameful. Power is a very basic amenity, and situations like these should not occur," said Unnayan Amitabh, 19, an intern with HSBC bank in New Delhi, as he was giving up on the underground train system and flagging down an auto-rickshaw to get home.

"Even before we could figure out the reason for yesterday's failure, we had more grid failures today."

R. N. NAYAK, CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE-RUN POWER GRID CORPORATION

"They talk about big ticket reforms but can't get something as essential as power supply right."

Power Minister Sushilkumar Shinde blamed the system collapse on some states drawing more than their share of electricity from the overburdened grid.

Asia's third-largest economy suffers a peak-hour power deficit of about 10 percent, dragging on economic growth.

REUTERS

India blackout

- 670 million people were without power in India yesterday – half the population and double the entire population of the USA.
- It's one of the world's biggest-ever power outages.
- Up to 40 percent of the population is not on the national power grid anyway, so much of the country was affected.
- 12 states were affected, from the Chinese border to the border with Pakistan.
- Air conditioning failed in New Delhi where the daytime temperature was 97 degrees, the nighttime high was 81 degrees and humidity was 94 percent.
- The city was gridlocked as traffic lights failed for the entire day.
- More than 4,000 extra police were called in to handle traffic at New Delhi intersection.
- 15-minute journeys were reportedly taking three hours.

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

@pattonoswalt
If you're selling bed sheets at a Chevron, you probably don't need to bother announcing the thread count.

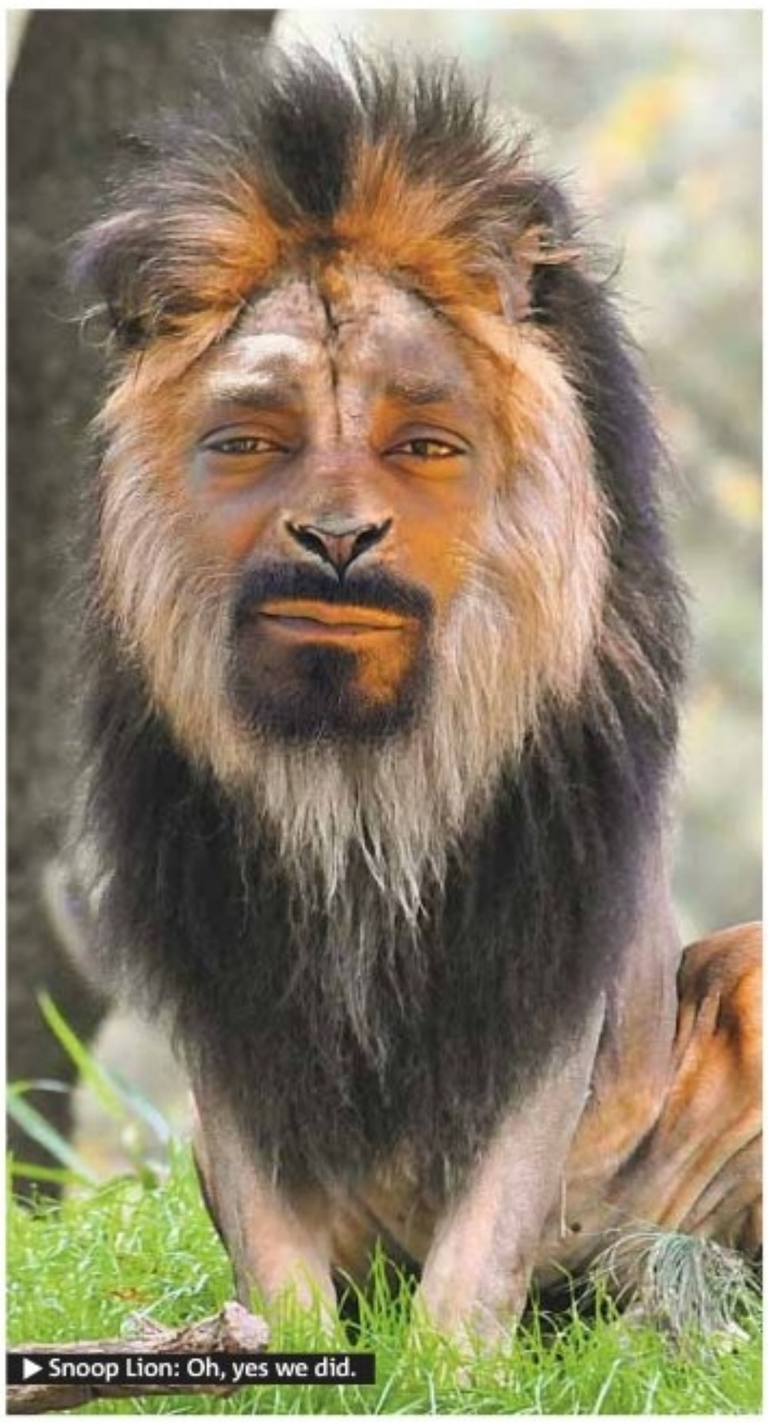
@SteveMartinToGo
There's a new reality show on NBC called "The Olympics." The judges need to bicker more and berate the contestants.

@AlbertBrooks
Enjoying Olympics. Just found out the high jump has nothing to do with how you watch it.

@azizansari
House of Pain's "Jump Around" is permanently associated w/that Mrs. Doubtfire opening bday party scene.

Aziz Ansari

What's his name? Snoop Lion



▶ Snoop Lion: Oh, yes we did.

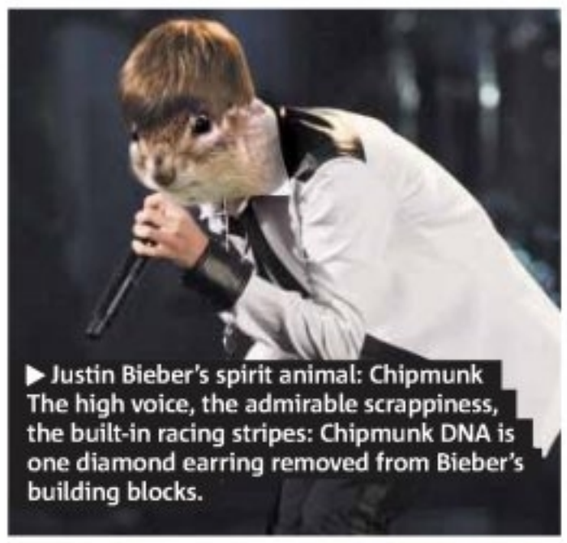
We expected **Snoop Dogg** to change his name again at some point. The rapper — who was born Calvin Cordozar Broadus Jr., christened himself Snoop Doggy Dogg, then dropped the Doggy — was at least one reincarnation behind **Diddy**.

What we didn't expect was that we'd be calling him **Snoop Lion**.

The new name comes after a trip to Jamaica, where he visited with Rastafarian priests. "I want to bury Snoop Dogg, and become Snoop Lion," Snoop revealed at a news conference in New York. "I didn't know that until I went to the temple, where the High Priest asked me what my name was, and I said, 'Snoop Dogg.' And he looked me in my eyes and said, 'No more. You are the light; you are the lion.' From that moment on, it's like I had started to understand why I was there."

Since when did Snoop start sounding like your too-touchy yoga teacher? That's a question for another day. For today, we ask you this: What is **Justin Bieber**'s spirit animal?

▶ Lindsay Lohan's spirit animal: Macaque
Because no other animal is known to both chain smoke and steal.



▶ Justin Bieber's spirit animal: Chipmunk
The high voice, the admirable scrappiness, the built-in racing stripes: Chipmunk DNA is one diamond earring removed from Bieber's building blocks.

▶ Taylor Swift's spirit animal: Gazelle
So graceful, so delicate, so innocent. And yet, we'd be really afraid to fall in her pen.

▶ Tom Cruise's spirit animal: Cockatoo
Perfectly coiffed and dead behind the eyes, both of these creatures have learned to speak gibberish while mimicking humans.

Talking Points

Katie Holmes is 'doing really great'

It's been a month since **Katie Holmes** filed for divorce from **Tom Cruise**, and apparently the lifestyle change is working out for her. "She's doing really great. She's so strong, she's an independent girl with her own ideas. She is fine," a source close to Holmes tells Us Weekly. Holmes has also reportedly been spending more time with 6-year-old daughter **Suri**. "She wants to really become a parent and start teaching her strong discipline," another source says, explaining that Holmes realized the young girl had become "very demanding and bratty."

Tough accusations for Henry Hopper

Some heavy accusations have been leveled against actor **Henry Hopper**, the 21-year-old son of the late **Dennis Hopper**. According to legal documents obtained by TMZ, the mother of an unidentified 16-year-old girl is suing Hopper over allegations he plied the girl with drugs and alcohol and raped her in his Venice, Calif., home.

Maybe start with a puppy, Rosie

Jason Statham might want to take note: His girlfriend, **Rosie Huntington-Whiteley**, is thinking about motherhood. "I always see myself working, but definitely being a mum will be a big part of me," she tells Elle magazine. "I think my career is very self-indulgent. It's all about me. I'm not a doctor, I'm not looking after people, I'm not saving children. I'm in the entertainment business." According to Huntington-Whiteley, it's time for her "to care about other things."

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Forming an Animal collective

NOLAN GAWRON/METRO

▶ With 23 guitarists, seven string players and two drummers (this number could vary), the grandiose Ensemble includes members of Helms, Ho-Ag, Night Rally, Hallelujah the Hills and more.

Animal Hospital began as a one-man band fronted by the modest and multitalented Kevin Micka, but the project has since grown into an ensemble comprised of a small army of friends and local luminaries.

When he began performing and recording solo, Micka's music was created by looping live drums, guitars and toys with specialty mics into a homemade soundboard where sparse soundscapes culminated into heavy, intricate crescendos with multiple tracks coexisting in harmonious chaos.

Last December, however, he took his project one step further, curating his greatest undertaking so far. Stepping away from his instruments and taking on the role of conductor, Micka handpicked 32 musicians and positioned them in a circle surrounding the sold-out MassArt audience to perform selections from the Animal Hospital catalogue.

"Anywhere you were in the circle you would see something different and hear something different," notes Micka. "It was really great going through the process of deconstructing and analyzing all the parts for everyone and then see what they did with them. Most of the parts I had very specific ideas about. Some others were a lot more open to improvise off of, which added a whole new life to it. I never really thought about conducting before, but I really enjoyed it. In some ways it made a lot of sense. My brain accepted it in a similar way to playing solo — a similar thought process of steps to follow and execute the arrangement."

If you go

Animal Hospital Ensemble
Tonight, 7:30
Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Ave., Boston
SOLD OUT

NOLAN GAWRON
letters@metro.us

A sound decision

Micka is known around town as a sound engineer, a consistent hired gun for friends' bands and the most recent member of Neptune. His ensemble is a testament to Micka's reputation as one of the city's most important sonic architects and proof of a unified scene in our underrated city.

"One of the benefits of living in Boston so long is that I've met and gotten to know a lot of these people from playing with them," he says.

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No sugar-coating here: The deal with sweeteners

When it comes to the sweet stuff, how bad is bad? We asked Anne Rollins — a nutritional consultant for Boston's Joint Ventures Physical Therapy and Fitness centers — to evaluate the pros and cons.

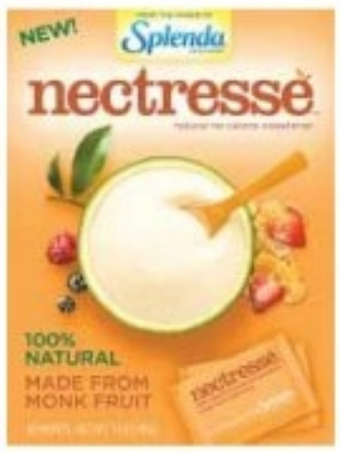
Cane sugar: "I don't think it's as bad as it's presumed to be. The problem is the excessive amount we eat, because it's added to everything and it doesn't contribute vitamins and minerals."

High-fructose corn syrup: "I rarely say never eat something, but I'd say never eat high-fructose corn syrup. Research has shown that it turns off leptin receptors and has an impact on cholesterol, leading to higher levels of bad cholesterol."

Stevia: "Stevia is a plant, but the sweetener is extracted and processed and refined. People think it's better than sugar, because it has zero calories. Truvia is just a brand name for a stevia sweetener."

Equal: "Equal is made from aspartame. Aspartame was found to cause brain tumors, but there wasn't much research that followed up that finding."

Nectresse: "This is a zero-calorie sweetener manufactured by the makers of Splenda. Nectresse uses an extract from monk fruit, a melon found in Asia. The extract is a sugar alcohol — sugar alcohols are known to cause gastrointestinal [problems]; however, the makers claim this product [doesn't] cause GI upsets. Because of its newness, we do not have any research regarding long-term effects or side effects."



Splenda and Sweet'N Low: "Sweet'N Low is actually sugar that's been molecularly altered. What that does in the body isn't really known. Splenda is another artificial sweetener derived from sugar."

Agave nectar: "This is one I like a lot. It's from a plant, it's natural and it doesn't affect the glycemic index like sugar, because it doesn't break down into glucose. It's the best one to lessen the risk of diabetes and endocrine issues."

Honey: "Honey is very good. There's great research on its antibacterial and antimicrobial properties. So, you're adding an immunity-fighting element to your diet."

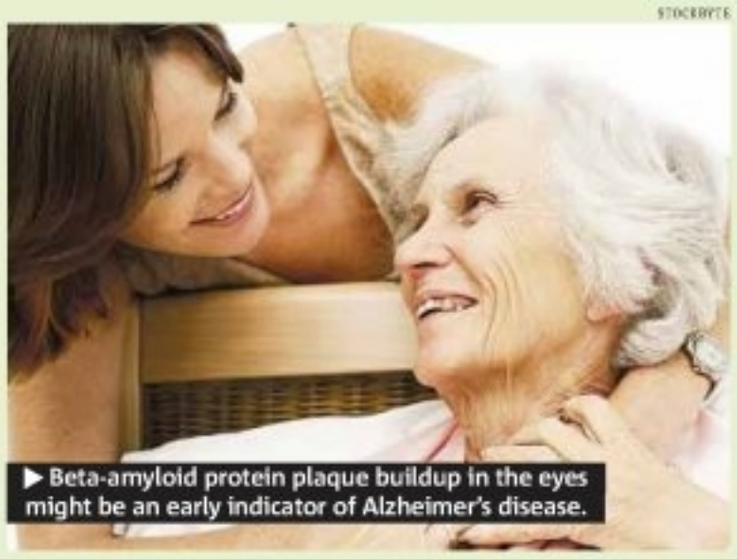
LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

Health news

Findings from the global Alzheimer's Association meeting

This month's Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Vancouver, Canada, unveiled new research into the condition's causes and possible "cure." Here's what we learned.

STOCKBYTE



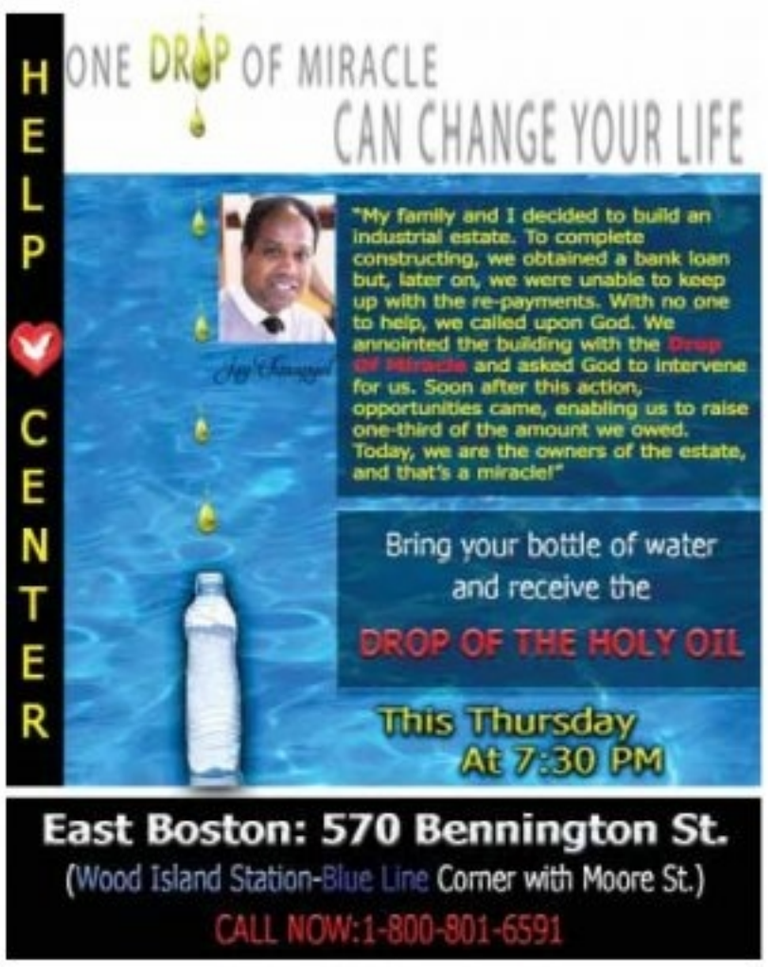
▶ Beta-amyloid protein plaque buildup in the eyes might be an early indicator of Alzheimer's disease.

1 Eyes: Not just a window to the soul: Cedars-Sinai researchers presented a new method of monitoring the progress of Alzheimer's. They said that the same beta-amyloid protein plaque buildup in the brain that is thought to be a cause or contributor to Alzheimer's is also found in the retina. Because deposits can be seen in the retina before they accumulate in the brain, noninvasive monitoring via retinal imaging could be used for early detection and in evaluating treatment response.

2 Blood pressure enzyme works on the brain: Cedars-Sinai also presented the results of targeted use of angiotensin-converting enzyme, which is often used to control blood pressure, in breaking down one of the peptides that forms the aforementioned brain plaque. Thus, the body's own immune response may help fight this damaging disease.

3 Alcohol consumption increased dementia risk: Two studies suggest that alcohol use ups one's chance of cognitive decline. In the 20-year study's final phase, moderate drinkers were around 60 percent more likely to develop cognitive impairment. Astoundingly, nondrinking women who took up drinking later in the study had a 200 percent increased risk.

4 Gait change could be a sign of cognitive impairment: Swiss researchers unveiled data suggesting that alterations in the way people walk as they get older could be linked to weakening brain function. Their study found that patients with Alzheimer's were more likely to walk slower than their healthy counterparts. The researchers suggest monitoring gait and testing anyone with such changes for cognitive failure. LINDA CLARKE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Letters

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Diversity includes all sorts of opinions

Speaker Quinn, like politicians across the country, wants to block the Chick-fil-A franchise from the city.

She says this is because we are city that believes in diversity.

If this is true, we should also be city that respects the right to divergent views.

CAROLYN DAVIS, VIA E-MAIL

Purse power best way to show views

Everyone has the right to eat or trade where they will, but we must understand the power of the purse. Especially in these tough economic times, businesses need your money.

The best way to let a company know we won't tolerate hate and bigotry, especially in the name of religion, is to keep your money in your wallet and walk on by.

Just say no. Your heart and the LGBT community will thank you.

KIM WILLIAMS, VIA E-MAIL

Gun control: Either no one or everyone should be armed?

After reading the article about gun control and Erich Pratt's comments suggesting that if more people in the theater were armed, the body count would have been less, nearly drove me insane. Picture a packed theater with armed people exchanging fire with who knows who because it's dark and no one knows who the initial shooter is because everyone's shooting blindly.

Yes we need gun control alright, not just for the weapons but for these kind of gun owners with such reckless ideas like that.

JONATHAN PERRY, VIA E-MAIL

Gun control: When all guns are finally outlawed, ONLY the outlaws will have them.

JIM ALVIN, VIA E-MAIL

Wealthy are worth more to country

What difference does it make if Gov. Romney shows us his tax returns from this year or 30 years ago. Some people would still not vote for him anyway.

Gov. Romney is a very smart, successful, wealthy businessman.

We should all be so fortunate.

In times of economic trouble, like him or not, he could turn this country around.

JOHN MCLAUGHLIN, VIA E-MAIL

When will the dead wood of society shut up or at the very least, be embarrassed about their demands for others to do their "fair share"? You couldn't buy a curbstone for what you parasites put into the system.

I may not be a huge Romney fan or of the "wealthy," BUT I know that he puts way more into the system in a single year than I (and my friends and family) will put into it in a lifetime.

Don't give me that "effective tax rate" crap either — 10 percent of Romney is far more valuable than 99 percent of your net worth, and he still only gets one vote.

YOU don't pay a fair share, but still get more than your share of services, so stop crying already.

JOSHUA D. TORDOFF, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Even though you might not believe it to be true, your judgment is excellent. Don't ponder on things to the point of confusion, causing you to err on the side of caution.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Financial matters could be a bit tricky for you, so move slowly when dealing with them. In order to stay in the profit column, do not allow your expenditures to overpower your resources.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Certain friends whom you enjoy might not appeal to your mate or family. You'd better get your family's approval if you want to include your pals on a guest list you're assembling.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Due to an unusual change, unearned benefits might come your way. If you fail to share your good luck with others, the source might be shut down.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Because you're a bit impulsive, there is a strong possibility that you could do something that would arouse feelings of giver's remorse.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** A wonderful opportunity might unexpectedly manifest, but it won't be offered solely to you. You must be quick to act on it before others beat you to the punch.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Although you are likely to be fortunate when you are left solely to your own devices, this same luck may not be present with any involvements that you share with others.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Analyze all joint endeavors very carefully, because they could contain more problems than promises. Make sure each component is examined for its own merit.

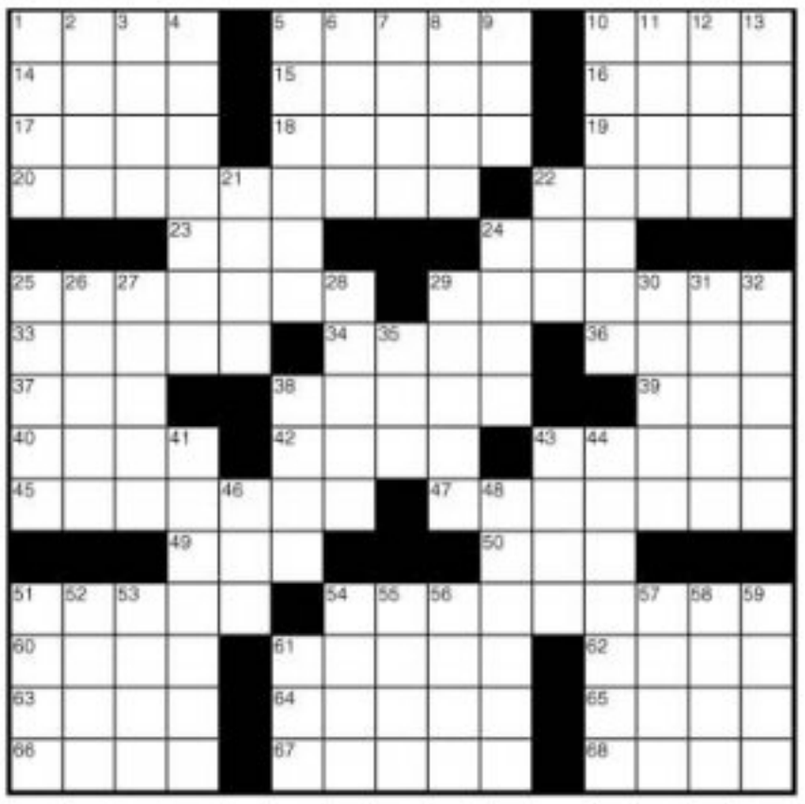
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Don't let it be said of you that you're a nice person only as long as everybody agrees with you. Be kind to everyone.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** The way you're handling a financial matter may not be optimal, but if you see that it's working fairly well so far, don't switch plans this late in the game.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** You should do OK when you rely upon yourself to make sure you have an environment in which you can work, but when you depend upon others, it'll be anybody's guess.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If there is an objective you're presently pursuing that is substantial and meaningful, don't let anybody convince you it would be impossible to achieve and thus stop your quest.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL



Across
1 Sci-fi menace
5 Gnat
10 Dewlap
14 Volkswagen kin
15 Midway alternative
16 Oscar's cousin
17 Plane needing little runway
18 Kind of blockade
19 "Bonanza" role
20 Wooed with music
22 Bumbling
23 Singer __ Damone
24 "Kidnapped" monogram
25 Mature
29 Stonework
33 Goes like a siren
34 Drench
36 Weather grp.
37 Joule fraction
38 Move to the beat
39 Business abbr.
40 Director __ Kazan
42 Dairy-case buy
43 Merriment
45 France's neighbor
47 __ and dearest
49 Scrap of cloth
50 FBI acronym
51 Kid's wheels
54 Plate __
60 Freedom org.
61 Danish islands
62 Town east of Wichita
63 Avoid
64 Of longer standing
65 Miscellanies
66 Listen carefully
67 Arranges for
68 Point the finger at

Down
1 Game fish
2 Pear-shaped instrument
3 Skunk's forte
4 Kind of house (hyph.)
5 Albert's realm
6 __ __ no idea!
7 Brubeck of jazz
8 June celebrant
9 Slippery fish
10 Houston Space Center
11 A woodwind
12 Bit of straw
13 For fear that
21 Rock guitarist __ Lofgren
22 They, in Calais
24 Leaf collector
25 Hardly Mr. Cool
26 Bogart's "High Sierra" role
27 Solemn watch
28 Choir selection
29 Little Richard's hometown
30 Bete __
31 Carries on
32 Luxury craft
35 Four quarters
38 QB __ Williams
41 Stuck, as a ship
43 Warm-water shark
44 Farsi speaker
46 John, in Glasgow
48 Diners
51 Hamper contents
52 Aspirin target
53 Stick together
54 Farfetched
55 Wagnerian role
56 "Fargo" director
57 New Rochelle college
58 Quahog
59 Info request encl.
61 Vain fellow

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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				6	9		2	
		4				9	1	6
	1	3	5					
4		7		2		5		1
					8	3	9	
1	4	9				6		
	5		6	9				
3		2			5			

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Games and beer: It's on the House

Quoted

"Drinking is a big part of the culture of England. You can't pay to get into every venue. ... This is good for the local businesses."
KELTON SCOTT, ENGLAND

For the gold

CASSANDRA GARRISON
CASSANDRA.GARRISON@METRO.US

CASSANDRA GARRISON/METRO

▶ Fans take in the men's 4x200 freestyle relay at one of the international Houses.

London has an extreme case of Olympic fever, and the medicine for it is beer.

For the thousands of fans who did not score tickets to events, London has set up multiple public viewings, where big-screen TVs show the events live. Nothing makes a better match than drinking and sports, and that's where the Houses of Nations come in.

These unique pop-up venues dot the city map, each offering a familiar place for fans of many countries, with traditional fare, screenings of events with local athletes — and don't forget the beer.

"If you haven't got tickets, you get the atmosphere here, which is better than watching at home on your couch," Andy Pronger, a Team Great Britain fan told Metro from inside a giant tented bar next to London Tower. White leather couches and strings of lights across the ceiling would give off the impression of an nightclub, if it weren't for the sports coverage being aired on giant projector screens.

Pingpong tables and arcade games bring fans from all countries together in their own friendly competitions. Some Houses of Nations are hangouts for all international fans, while others are geared toward specific nationalities. Fans can find Casa Brazil, Czech House, French Olympic Village, Russia Park and many more. There isn't a specific place for Team USA fans, but many Americans find their way to one of the two "come one, come all" Houses of Nations.

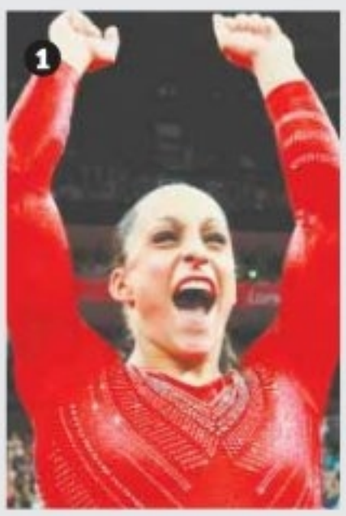
"I really like it here," American student Rachel Eldridge told Metro as she drank Pimms with other American and British friends. "It's a cool venue to watch the games, enjoy it and be a part of it, and not have to pay for the 200-pound tickets."

Kelton Scott and his wife, Heidi, came to the House of Nations not for a drink, but to get a photo with an official Olympic torch — one of the many incentives the pop-up bars offer to bring fans in from off the street — but that's not to say they, and many other fans, haven't spent plenty of time in London's rich pub scene.

*– **Cassandra Garrison** is covering the Olympics live from London. Follow her at **@CassieAtMetro.***

The games in pictures

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



1 **Jordyn Wieber** celebrates as the U.S. women's gymnastics team is announced as gold medalists.

2 America's **Allison Schmitt** destroyed the rest of the field in the 200-meter freestyle, winning by almost two seconds.

3 **Jennifer Kessy**, one half of the U.S. beach volleyball team you don't know, beat the Netherlands to stay undefeated.

4 **Tyson Chandler** denies the Tunisian offense in a 47-point rout in their second game.

5 Doping allegations didn't keep **Ye Shiwen** from winning her second gold, this in the 200-meter IM.

Medal count

	G	S	B
1. CHINA	13	6	4

2. UNITED STATES	9	8	6
3. JAPAN	1	4	8
4. FRANCE	4	3	4
5. SOUTH KOREA	3	2	3
6. ITALY	2	4	2
7. RUSSIA	2	2	4
8. GERMANY	2	3	1
9. AUSTRALIA	1	3	2
10. ROMANIA	1	2	2

Tune in

Three events to catch today:

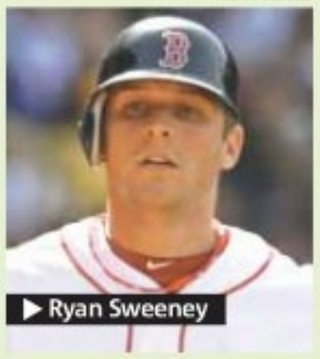
▶ American Kathleen Hersey, the top qualifier in the women's 200-meter butterfly, faces off against the Chinese favorites. Cammile Adams (USA) will compete in both the 200-meter fly and pair up with Missy Franklin and crew in the 4x200 freestyle.

▶ United States flag bearer Mariel Zagunis begins her quest for a third gold medal in fencing as she competes in the individual sabre.

▶ Women's doubles tennis has reached the quarterfinals and both U.S. teams are still alive. The favorites are Venus and Serena Williams, who will face Italy. The two have won five doubles titles at Wimbledon, including one a few weeks ago.

MARK OSBORNE

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Ryan Sweeney

Sweeney punches way to DL

Ryan Sweeney's outburst in the dugout Monday night proved to be one of the more idiotic moments in a Red Sox season that has seen plenty of them.

Sweeney punched a door during Monday's win over Detroit and it left him with a fractured knuckle in his left hand.

Sweeney could very well be out for the remainder of the season. It was rumored that Sweeney could have been part of a Red Sox trade earlier in the week.

"Boys will be boys," Red Sox manager Bobby Valentine told WEEI.com. "The door that he happened to hit is dented, so it wasn't the first time. He just must have went at it in the wrong direction." METRO

Trade front quiet

The Red Sox tinkered but did nothing major A look at the winners and losers across the MLB landscape yesterday at the trade deadline Lots of activity in the National League

The Red Sox did not make a major splash at the nonwaiver trade deadline yesterday instead making two smaller moves to alter the bullpen and to free Lars Anderson from his Pawtucket prison.

That leaves the local club on the outs when it comes to the lists that everyone enjoys to make every July 31, the annual trade deadline winners and the losers. Here is our version:

Winners

Dodgers: This is the definition of going for it all. L.A. acquired Hanley Ramirez, Shane Victorino and two quality relievers in Brandon League and Randy Choate. While the Dodgers did not land starter Ryan Dempster, they will not suffer immensely for it. This is a team with reigning Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw, who leads a rotation that has the second-lowest ERA in the National League and will soon get Ted Lilly back. It may now have enough offensive weapons to avoid having to win games 2-1.

Cubs: There was no mistaking that Theo Epstein was going to clean house. While he still has Alfonso Soriano and Matt Garza, he did a nice job of dumping what he could to continue a massive rebuilding process in Chicago. The Cubbies did well to build up Paul Maholm and sell him at his peak, acquiring a quality prospect from Atlanta, one of a handful of moves made by Epstein.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Red Sox acquired Arizona reliever Craig Breslow in exchange for Matt Albers and Scott Podsednik yesterday.

Arm relief

A look at Craig Breslow this year with Arizona:

- ERA 2.70 in 40 appearances
- WHIP 1.18
- Strikeouts 42

Braves: Dempster got all the publicity (a 2.25 ERA will do that to a man), but Maholm was the hotter of the two Cubs pitchers who were dealt. In Maholm the Braves have an affordable arm who is pitching as well as anyone in baseball right now and who brings with him a nice team option for 2013. Atlanta also got veteran Reed Johnson in the deal, a nice piece for a team that lacked outfield depth.

Losers

Orioles: General manager Dan Duquette deserves plenty of credit for some offseason moves that have proved very valuable. However, he was unable to pull the trigger on anything significant in July, falling short of a middling move for Phillies starter Joe Blanton. That would not have made the O's all that much better, but it couldn't hurt for a team that is in the midst of a rare playoff push.

Reds: They failed to get that leadoff man/outfielder that would've taken the team to another level. Denard Span, linked heavily to Cincinnati, was a perfect fit for a lineup that has a pitiful .247 OBP from leadoff hitters this year.

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▶ Needham's Aly Raisman celebrates with her U.S. teammates after the squad won gold yesterday.

Raisman, US grab gold

Aly Raisman became the first greater Boston athlete to win Olympic gold in the 2012 games yesterday as she and the rest of the U.S. women's gymnastic team proved to be the best squad in the world.

"We knew we could do it," Raisman told the Associated Press. "We just had to pull out all the stops."

Raisman will still be seeking individual gold in the All-Around competition tomorrow. The women's vault final is Sunday, with the uneven bars Monday and the beam and floor exercise Tuesday.

Any idea that the Needham native and U.S. teammate Jordyn Wieber had heat with each other was completely dashed yesterday as the two shared shrieks and tears of joy with the team victory. Raisman had advanced to the individual All-Around final Sunday at the expense of Wieber, who was considered a near-lock.

"Even though they are younger, I still look up to [my teammates] because they work so hard and they inspire me to do better every day," Raisman told Metro prior to the start of the London games. "We work so well together as a team and have such a strong bond."

Team USA was dominant in the gold win, beating Russia by five points with a score of 183.596. It was the first U.S. Olympic title in women's gymnastics since 1996.

"This is the best team of all-time," U.S. coach John Geddert told the AP. "Others might disagree. The '96 team might disagree. But this is the best team."

MATT BURKE
matthew.burke@metro.us

Men's hoops cruises

Every player on the roster scored for the U.S. men's basketball team Tuesday as the Americans won their second contest of the London games, a 110-63 decision over Tunisia.

The U.S. started off quite slow, as it had just a 21-15 lead after the first quarter.

But a 39-14 third quarter ended any thoughts of a close contest.

Carmelo Anthony and Kevin Love each had 16 points for the U.S. Kevin Durant posted a double-double and LeBron James added five points.

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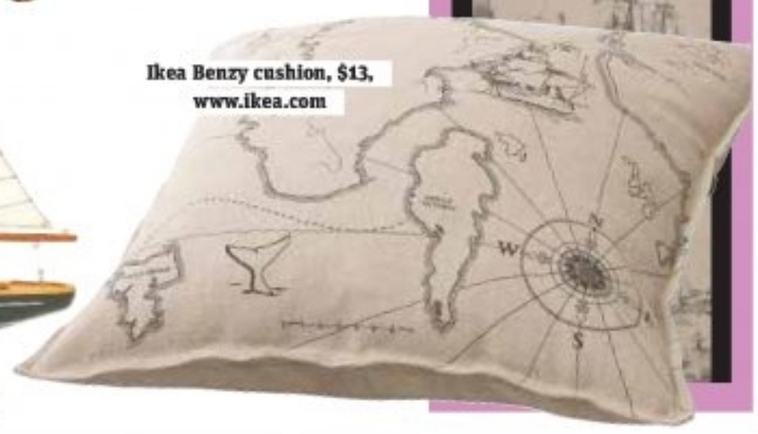
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By Attorney George Warshaw

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It's bad enough that three competing credit reporting agencies put their own spin on your creditworthiness and some gnome then "scores" your credit like a Vegas Bookmaker, but now there's a new referee in town who will have even more to say.

On July 10th, the credit scoring gnome "FICO" joined with CoreLogic (a data mining firm) to design a wholly new score specifically for mortgage lenders and borrowers. The FICO Mortgage Score Powered by CoreLogic is based on information provided by CoreLogic in a detailed report called the CoreScore Credit Report.

The report grabs information that Experian, TransUnion and Equifax don't consider. CoreLogic has access to information about you that others don't.

Pay your rent late or miss an alimony or support payment (how would they know?) and you could have a problem getting a loan. Supposedly if you dispute an inaccurate item on the CoreScore report, the disputed item won't be held against you.

Let's see how that works out!

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GWA

George Warshaw is a real estate attorney and author. He represents buyers and sellers of homes and condos in Massachusetts, and prepares wills, trusts, and estate plans. George welcomes new clients and questions at metro@warshawlaw.com.

at home with metro

Going for the gold

If the developers of Boston Wharf Tower do their job right, a new residential space in the Fort Point area will be highly sustainable

GERDING EDLEN

▶ Boston Wharf Tower's developers have reached out to the artists' community, including Karen Stein, whose mock apartment setup, inset, was more of an artistic interpretation than an exact rendering.

Olympic contenders aren't the only ones going for gold right now. After last week's high-profile groundbreaking for Boston Wharf Tower, a new Fort Point Channel residential building, Kelly Saito, the president of the building's developer, Gerding Edlen, says it's where the company's sights are set when it comes to certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

"Gold is always the goal with our developments," Saito says of the LEED status. "We consider sustainability, legitimate elements of efficiency and conservation to the maximum extent as possible. That includes the minimal use of energy both in the way a building works when it's completed and in the way we work creating it. It also means using materials that are not scarce, but are rapidly renewable."

Platinum certification is the highest LEED grading, gold is second. Still, Portland, Ore.-based Gerding Edlen is considered a leader in sustainably designed developments. The company is also developing nearby 63 Melcher as apartments.

The groundbreaking gave a peek at future homes in Boston Wharf Tower via Fort Point artist Karen Stein's mock unit (shown, inset), created as a one-day-only installation.

"Karen replicated a small studio unit. It was dimensionally accurate, but the rest was an artistic interpretation," says Saito. "It allowed us to connect with the artistic community. It wasn't a strategic decision; it's what we are as a company. Philosophically, that's how we approach projects. The more engagement with the community, the better."

LINDA LABAN
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Boston Wharf Tower is a working title for the new project at 319 A St. in Fort Point Channel. Saito says it will likely gain a real name as the project develops. This 20-story tower will include 202 apartments and will open in the fall of 2013. At street level, plans are for community spaces that are flexible enough to add retail later. for more information, visit **www.gerdingedlen.com**

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US home prices up 2.2% in May

U.S. homes prices climbed 2.2 percent in May, according to the 20-city composite in S&P's Case-Shiller Index, released yesterday. That places the average price of a single-family home at spring 2003 prices, a 33 percent decline from the peak, in summer of 2006, the data shows.

Both the Case-Shiller 10- and 20-city composites showed higher annual returns than in April, good but not great news for the housing market, which even according to last month's numbers, was still suffering, despite the season.

The cities that continued to show negative returns were Boston, Charlotte and Detroit; Atlanta was the only city the index measured that showed double-digit negative returns, at negative 14.5 percent, in May.

▶ For the second consecutive month, we saw an increase in U.S. home prices.

BRAND X PICTURES

"We have observed two consecutive months of increasing home prices and overall improvements in monthly and annual returns," Chairman of the index committee, David Blitzer, said in the statement from S&P Dow Jones Indices. "However, we need to remember that spring and early summer are seasonally strong buying months so this trend must continue throughout the summer and into the fall." GUELDA VOIEN

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